

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 10, 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph should be **AMENDED** as follows:

In this case, it is preferred that at least a part of the NO<sub>x</sub> absorbent material be supported on the oxygen storage material capable of enhancing the ionization potential of the NO<sub>x</sub> absorbent material. Such arrangement enables the oxygen storage material to serve effectively as a catalyst component capable of intensely and positively charging the NO<sub>x</sub> absorbent material supported on the oxygen storage material. As such an oxygen storage material, oxides containing Ce ~~an~~ and Pr ions are effective. A Ce-Pr mixed oxide is especially preferable.

Page 11, 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph should be **DELETED**.